

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14878

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY, GR, TU, GW
SUBJECT: FIVE-POWER INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS

REFS: A) STATE 203250; B) BONN 14056

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING-LEVEL REMAINS DISTINCTLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT A POSSIBLE FIVE-POWER INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS (REF B). A RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN MADE TO GENSCHER THAT THE FRG CONSULT WITH THE FRENCH BEFORE REPLYING TO THE BRITISH PROPOSAL FOR AN AUGUST 21 MEETING.

2. FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, INCLUDING POLITICAL DIRECTOR BLECH, CONTINUE TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT A FIVE-POWER INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS. AS OUTLINED REF B, THESE OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE SUGGESTED COMPOSITION
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OF THE GROUP WILL GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF A TRANSFERRING OF THE NAMIBIA CONTACT GROUP TO CYPRUS AND CONSEQUENTLY THE IMPRESSION OF A UNSC CONNECTION. THESE OFFICIALS FEAR THIS IMPLIED LINKAGE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL COULD GIVE AN OPENING TO THE SOVIETS TO REQUEST PARTICIPATION IN THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES. MOREOVER, THEY BELIEVE THE SUGGESTED COMPOSITION WOULD REPRESENT

AN 2INTERNATIONALIZATION2 OF THEPROBLEM,WHICH THE GREEK CYPRIOTS SUPPORT BUT WHICH THE TURKS OPPOSE. THESE OFFICIALS ALSO BELIEVE THE GROUP'S SIZE WILL MITIGATE AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF AGREEING ON A PAPER OR A COURSE OF ACTION. ONE WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL HAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT CANADA, DESPITE ITS CONTINGENT OF TROOPS ON THE ISLAND, HAS NO LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN A SETTLEMENT AND WOULD NOT BE AN EFFECTIVE PARTICIPANT.

3. OUR FOREIGN OFFICE CONTACTS GENERALLY WOULD PREFER A STRUCTURE OF FOUR (US-UK-FRG-FRANCE) AS THE BASIS OF A WESTERN INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS. THERE IS ALSO SOME FEELING HERE THAT A FRANCO-GERMAN INITIATIVE, PROCEEDING PARALLEL TO ACTION BY THE US, WOULD BE ANOTHER MODEL UPON WHICH ONE MIGHT PROCEED.

4. OUR CONTACTS BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT WHATEVER GROUP EMERGES PROCEED ALONG FAIRLY GENERAL LINES IN APPROACHING THE PROBLEM. THERE IS SOME CONCERN HERE THAT PROPOSALS WHICH ARE TOO SPECIFIC WILL BE SEEN BY THE GREEKS, TURKS AND CYPRIOTS AS AN ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE A DE FACTO SOLUTION FROM THE OUTSIDE. (THERE ARE ALSO DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER A FOUR OR FIVE POWER-INITIATIVE COULD EFFECTIVELY TRANSFORM ITS PROPOSALS INTO ACTION.)

5. BLECH AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE OUTLINED THEIR
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CONCERNS IN A PAPER TO MINISTER GENSCHER. THE PAPER RECOMMENDS THAT NO REPLY BE MADE TO THE BRITISH UNTIL THE MATTER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED FURTHER WITH THE FRENCH AND POSSIBLY THE US. WHILE THE WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS' RESERVATIONS AS OUTLINED ABOVE ARE SERIOUS, THERE IS GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT GENSCHER MAY WELL SWEEP THEM ASIDE AND AGAIN ENDORSE THE FIVE-POWER INITIATIVE.
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